

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MC-02 IGA-02 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 /095 W  
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R 231504Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2538

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS ANKARA 1421

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAIR, MILL, PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT: AIR FORCE COMMANDER ALPKAYA PRESS CONFERENCE ON LOCKHEED  
ISSUE

REF: ANKARA 1208

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21, TURKISH AIR  
FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL ALPKAYA DEFENDED GOT DECISION TO BUY  
LOCKHEED F104SS FROM ITALY. ALPKAYA REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE OF  
THE "ATMOSPHERE DURING THE CYPRUS OPERATION" AND HOW  
"IT APPEARED MANDATORY TO REINFORCE THE AIR FORCE  
RAPIDLY." NO ONE EXCEPT ITALY WAS ABLE TO SUPPLY.  
"THE ATTRACTIVE SIDE OF THE OFFER WAS THAT THE ITALIAN  
GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF 8 OR 10 F-104SS  
AND THE BIDDER ALTAY COMPANY REPRESENTING LOCKHEED DECLARED  
READINESS TO DELIVER THE REMAINING PLANES." GENERAL ALPKAYA  
SAID THAT "LOCKHEED'S ROLE IN THIS WAS THAT IT PROVIDED  
THE MANUFACTURING LICENSE TO THE ITALIAN AERITALIA COMPANY  
AND GOT U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR THE SALE."

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2. THE GENERAL SAID THAT WHILE THE FIRST SALE WAS GOING THROUGH GOT RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT U.S. WAS GOING TO IMPOSE AN EMBARGO SO TURKEY ORDERED A SECOND SQUADRON OF 22 PLANES. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, ALPKAYA CONFIRMED THAT A LOCKHEED REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING WITH THE ITALIAN COMPANY IN ITALY. ALPKAYA FOUND "IT NORMAL FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCKHEED TO BE PRESENT."

3. ALPKAYA SAID HE FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS ANYONE IN THE TURKISH AIR FORCE WHO WOULD ACCEPT BRIBES FROM LOCKHEED AND COMPLAINED THAT SUSTAINED RUMORS ABOUT BRIBERY FROM LOCKHEED WERE HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON TAF. HE WARNED THAT THE AIM OF THESE VIRULENT RUMORS COULD BE TO PREVENT TAF FROM GROWING IN STRENGTH. THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY THE PRESS RUMORS WAS SUCH, HE ADMITTED, THAT AIRCRAFT PURCHASES HAD COME TO A STANDSTILL AND NO ONE WANTED TO SERVE ON PROCUREMENT COMMITTEES.

4. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GENERAL AREA OF U.S. INVESTIGATIONS REMAINS EXTENSIVE. MOST PAPERS ON SUNDAY REPORTED THAT TURKEY WAS AMONG A GROUP OF COUNTRIES TO WHOM CERTAIN (VAGUELY DESCRIBED) PAYMENTS HAD BEEN MADE BY NORTHROP.

5. NEZIH DURAL, LOCKHEED REPRESENTATIVE HAS RETURNED TO TURKEY FROM THE U.S. DURAL SAID THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO CLEAR HIS NAME AND WILL UNDERGO A LIE DETECTOR TEST IF NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO FEAR FROM A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION, HE WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED FROM THE U.S., BUT COULD HAVE INSTEAD BROUGHT HIS FAMILY TO THE U.S.  
MACOMBER

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